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NOTE

from : General Secretariat

to : Delegations

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Subject : Six-monthly Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2006/II)

Delegations will find enclosed the Six-monthly Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2006/II), which was endorsed by the Council on 21 December 2006.

Six-monthly Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2006/II)

I. Introduction

This progress report on the implementation of the WMD Strategy covers EU activities in the second half of 2006. As in the past, it has been established by the Office of the HR's Personal Representative on non-proliferation in co-ordination with the Commission services. It concentrates on main developments and trends rather than containing an exhaustive repetition of all items mentioned in the Strategy. This progress report is accompanied by an updated "List of priorities for the implementation of the EU WMD Strategy", as a follow-up to the list of priorities endorsed by the Council in December 2005 (doc. 5279/06).

II. Support to international Treaty system and international organisations

The support to the international Treaty System and international organisations remains a cornerstone of the activities developed by the EU in order to fight against proliferation of WMD. The adoption of UNSC Resolutions 1695, 1696 and 1718, following the adoption of UNSCR 1540, illustrated the UN Security Council's central role. The EU is fully implementing all provisions of these resolutions.

When this support takes the form of Joint Actions implying financial resources, such resources are entirely devoted to concrete projects of assistance to third countries and do not constitute an additional contribution to the functioning costs of the international organisations through which some of the Joint Actions are implemented.

1) Nuclear issues

- Council Joint Actions in support of the IAEA

In order to achieve the objective of strengthening the security of nuclear and radio-active materials, a series of assistance projects have been undertaken or are under preparation in countries in the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, the Mediterranean region and in Africa. Through a financial contribution of almost 15 million EUR over 3 years, the EU has now become one of the major donors to the IAEA nuclear security fund.

The IAEA has completed the implementation of Joint Action 2004/495/CFSP of 17 May 2004. The assessment phase for the implementation of Joint Action 2005/574/CFSP of 18 July 2005 has been carried out successfully. A new Joint Action 2006/418/CFSP, adopted by the Council on 12 June 2006, building on the work currently carried out by IAEA, expands the scope of application in geographic terms - through the inclusion of African countries - and widens the range of activities through the provision of comprehensive legislative and regulatory assistance.

As to the specific content of these Joint Actions:

a) Joint Action 2004/495/CFSP

11 countries, situated in the Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia, have received assistance in different areas of nuclear security:

Project 1: Strengthening the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and other Radioactive Materials in Use, Storage and Transport and of Nuclear Facilities:

Armenia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Romania, and Serbia & Montenegro

Project 2: Strengthening of Security of Radioactive Materials in Non-Nuclear Applications:

Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Serbia and Montenegro

Project 3: Strengthening of States' Capabilities for Detection and Response to Illicit Trafficking:
Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Serbia/Montenegro

b) Joint Action 2005/574/CFSP

The selection of countries has been completed and the implementation of this Joint Action is now proceeding in accordance to plans. 20 countries will benefit from nuclear security assistance.

Project 1: Strengthening the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and other Radioactive Materials in Use, Storage and Transport and of Nuclear Facilities:
Armenia, Bulgaria, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Libya, Morocco, and Serbia

Project 2: Strengthening of Security of Radioactive Materials in Non-Nuclear Applications:
Subproject 2a): Strengthening the regulatory infrastructure:
Albania, Algeria, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
Subproject 2b): Protection of vulnerable radioactive sources
Algeria, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Serbia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan

Project 3: Strengthening of States' Capabilities for Detection and Response to Illicit Trafficking:
Algeria, Jordan , Lebanon, Morocco, Serbia and Tunisia

Project 4: Legislative Assistance for the Implementation of States' Obligations under IAEA Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocols:
Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

c) Joint Action 2006/418/CFSP

The third Joint Action in support of the IAEA, adopted on 12 June 2006, will continue existing nuclear security assistance activities but, in addition, will address the particularly worrisome situation in African countries. The financial agreement is to be concluded soon between the IAEA and the European Commission. Implementation will start in March/April 2007.

- Physical protection of nuclear material

In parallel, the Commission and Member States are proceeding with the ratification of amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material with a view to early entry into force. This results in the strengthening of the physical protection regime within the EU.

- Community activities in Russia and CIS

Securing nuclear materials in Russia and CIS : The Joint Research Centre continues to be involved in the implementation of important programmes to secure nuclear materials in Russia and CIS within the TACIS context. In 2004, it was agreed with the Russian Authorities that the new phase of the programme will be more focused on nuclear security with an emphasis on the fight against illicit trafficking of nuclear materials. Seven past and on-going projects in three countries for a total amount of 14.7 Meuros are or have been implemented in close co-ordination with other major actors (IAEA, US/DOE, etc.) For the period 2005-2010, the Joint Research Centre support to TACIS programme has been estimated to 30 Meuros and concerns 14 projects: 7 in the Russian Federation, 2 in Ukraine, 2 in Kazakhstan, 2 in Armenia and 1 multi-country project. 15.4 Meuros have already been committed end of 2005. Major projects aim at improving accountancy/control of hold up and waste as well as implementing measures to combat illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear material (border crossing stations, improved capabilities to analyse seized materials).

Redirecting scientists work. Since 1994, the Commission and other donors (USA, Japan) have funded the International Science and Technology Centre in Moscow (ISTC) and the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine (STCU) in order to prevent former weapon scientists expertise from proliferating while redirecting their work towards civil research.

In the first half of 2006 the ISTC funded 45 projects with a total value of 8.1 Meuro. The STCU funded 17 projects with a total value of 2.1 Meuro. The EU supported two new targeted initiatives aiming at (1) promoting a collaboration of researchers for the development of Law Enforcement Technologies with the Russian Ministry of Interior and (2) establishing a collaboration between STCU and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

Whilst the Science Centres have had considerable added value since 1994 (through the employment of former WMD weapons related scientists and engineers to avoid the risks of WMD knowledge proliferation), the real non-proliferation impact of such programs needs today to be reassessed. The European Commission has therefore decided to carry out an evaluation of the non proliferation activities in both centres starting beginning of January 2007. More generally, discussions about the centres' future are also going on within their respective Governing Boards. The ISTC Governing Board members will have a Strategic Planning Session on December 6th in Moscow. The next Strategic Planning Session of STCU will take place in Spring 2007. The outcomes of those sessions, together with the Commission study, will be available to inform the 2008 funding decision. An interim solution is currently being assessed for 2007 with the view to further activities, through the Stability Instrument, in this field.

- Council Joint Action in support of the CTBTO

Working for an early entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty remains an important objective of the EU WMD strategy. In the light of the nuclear test conducted by DPRK, the EU urged all States that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to do so as soon as possible, in particular the few remaining States mentioned in Annex II of the Treaty, whose ratification is necessary for entry into force.

The Council adopted on 20 March 2006 a Joint Action (2006/243/CFSP) on support for activities of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) in the area of training and capacity building for verification. It will allow for the development of capacity, through e-learning, for the training of station operators of the stations of the CTBTO monitoring network. Providing them with adequate and timely training will significantly contribute to ensure the credibility and the smooth operation of the verification system.

The CTBTO Secretariat has concluded a financial agreement with the Commission in July 2006. The implementation of the project will start in early 2007. It will take into account the results of a pilot phase which is carried out by the CTBTO Secretariat during 2006 and will end in December.

- EU support for the FMCT

A Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear devices would constitute a major step in the direction of nuclear disarmament. In the context of the debate in the CD, the EU has expressed support for the early commencement of negotiations as well as early conclusion of a non-discriminatory, universally applicable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The EU attaches a clear priority to the negotiations of such a Treaty. Negotiations should start without pre-conditions, but nothing can be precluded from the negotiations. This was made clear in the EU Common Position relating to the NPT Review Conference, adopted on 25 April 2005, and by which the EU stands.

- Multilateral nuclear fuel assurances

Multilateral Nuclear Fuel Assurances aim at creating incentives for countries not to develop national enrichment and reprocessing technologies and corresponding capacities. An initiative in this respect has been put forward at the IAEA by six countries including four EU Member States. Consistent with the EU WMD Strategy, this initiative builds on existing enrichment capacities in these six countries to offer multilateral assurances of access to nuclear fuel.

2) Chemical Weapons

- Implementation of the Joint Action on support for OPCW

Activities in support of OPCW under the Joint Action adopted in December 2005 (2005/913/CFSP) continue. They aim at promoting:

- universalisation of the CWC
- national implementation and international cooperation.

a) Universalisation

A regional workshop on the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention took place in Rome on 25-27 October in order to promote awareness of the Convention among States in the Mediterranean Basin, the Middle East, and neighbouring regions. Lebanon and Syria among others participated. The HR's PR on non-proliferation presented the EU WMD Strategy and its contribution in support of the CWC. A second seminar will be organised during the first half of 2007 for target countries in Africa. The Presidency and the Office of the PR were represented. Since the beginning of the implementation of EU Joint Actions in support of the OPCW in 2005, 13 countries have signed and ratified the Convention, bringing the total number of OPCW Member States up to 180.

b) National implementation and international cooperation

The recommendations of the Clearance Mechanism foreseen under Joint Action 2005/913/CFSP were endorsed by the CODUN Working Group as follows: *Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Liberia and Uganda* will be the first recipients of grants under project 2(b) National Implementation, while laboratories in *Eritrea, Bangladesh* and *FYROM* will receive equipment under project 3(a) International Cooperation Laboratory Assistance. *Peru* and *Ghana* will also benefit from this project now that the issue of arrears to the OPCW has been solved. Following a second recommendation by the Clearing Mechanism, CODUN has endorsed on 12 December further grants (under project 2b)) for Azerbaijan, Benin, Gabon, Malawi, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Uruguay.

Two units of the Analytical Skills Development Course for qualified analytical chemists from States Parties that are either developing or have economies in transition foreseen by the Joint Action were held in June-July 2006 in Finland and in The Netherlands. 40 out of the 250 applications to participate in these courses were accepted.

- Reflections on further support to OPCW have started

On 15 September 2006 delegations from EU Member States in The Hague held a brainstorming session with the OPCW Technical Secretariat on further support to the activities of the OPCW. The results of this meeting were analysed by CODUN which is working on a proposal for a draft Joint Action for further support to the OPCW to be adopted in 2007.

3. Biological and Toxin Weapons

The Sixth Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) is taking place end November - beginning December 2006. This created a momentum for a comprehensive EU action in support of the Convention, focussed on its universalisation, enhanced national implementation and compliance as well as on enhancement of the credibility and effectiveness of the Convention.

- Council Joint Action in support of BTWC

The Joint Action (2006/184/CFSP), adopted by the Council on 27 February 2006, has two objectives: to promote universalisation of the Convention and to ensure full national implementation of its provisions.

a) universalisation

The first objective is pursued through organisation of regional seminars. The first seminar, which targeted eastern and central Africa, took place in Nairobi in June 2006. Eight out of eleven target countries, thus not party to the Convention, participated in the seminar. One country (Burundi) has already handed over a ratification instrument to depositaries, two other countries (Madagascar, Comoros) have launched the ratification process. A second regional seminar took place in Bangkok and eight out of eleven target countries participated. The EU carried out the second round of targeted universalisation demarches to participants of the regional seminar in Kenya.

b) national implementation

The second objective is pursued through providing technical (legislative drafting) assistance to States which are party to the Convention. The assistance will be channelled either through an internet based Information and Collaboration Management System (operational by the end of 2006), or through visits of experts in the target states. In order to discuss assistance needs as well as the challenges of the BTWC national implementation, an international conference was co-organised with the EU Institute of International Studies in September 2006 in Paris. The following countries (State parties) were represented: *Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, BiH, Canada, Costa Rica, FYROM, India, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Nigeria, Peru, RF, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and the US.*

- Implementation of the EU Action Plan on BTWC

In order to set a good precedent for other States participating in the BTWC Review Conference, the EU Member States agreed to submit to the UN on a yearly basis CBM returns and by December 2006 to up-date the list of relevant experts and laboratories to which the UN Secretary General could resort in order to facilitate any investigation of alleged chemical or biological weapons production or use. Before the opening of the BTWC Review Conference, all 25 Member States have submitted their CBMs.

- EU Common Position related to the 2006 Review Conference

The concrete actions mentioned above add credibility to the main objectives of the EU Common Position 2006/242/CFSP adopted by the Council on 20 March 2006 in view of to the 2006 Review Conference, namely to strengthen the BTWC and to promote the successful outcome of this Review Conference. Seven EU papers have been prepared and submitted for the consideration to the BTWC State Parties during the Review Conference. They cover the following issues:

- BTWC Article X,
- Enhancement of the CBM process
- Assessment of National Implementation of the BTWC
- Biosafety and Biosecurity
- Increasing universal adherence to the BTW Convention
- BTWC Implementation: need for a concerted and coordinated approach
- The Intersessional Programme of Work: Its utility and contribution to fulfilling the object and purpose of the BTWC between 2003-2005 and a case for further intersessional work after 2006.
- Bio-terrorism

In addition, the EU Member States submitted papers facilitating the Article-by-Article review of the Convention during the Review Conference. The preparation of the BTWC Review Conference (the EU Common position and related EU proposals) has been systematically discussed with third countries in political dialogue meetings.

4. Missiles

Efforts in support of an early membership of all new EU Member States in the MTCR were pursued during the MTCR Plenary in Copenhagen in October 2006.

The EU carried out demarches to the US and Russia encouraging compliance with the HCoC obligations, namely with regard to pre-launch notifications and to yearly declarations. The Presidency systematically raised HCoC universalisation with relevant partners in political dialogue meetings.

5. Support for UNSC Resolution 1540(2004)

The EU co-organised and co-financed three regional seminars through the Joint Action in support of the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1540(2004), adopted by the Council in June 2006. The seminars have taken place in *China* (June 2006), *Peru* (November 2006) and *Ghana* (November 2006) for the regions which, according to the final Report of the UNSCR 1540 Committee of 27 April 2006, have the greatest problems with the implementation of the Resolution. These regional seminars are aimed at raising awareness about the requirements of UNSC Resolution 1540, in particular about the obligation to submit national reports on implementation and to adopt relevant legislation and other measures. The HR's PR on non-proliferation participated in the Beijing and Lima seminars. Her Office was represented in Ghana.

6. Cooperation with the UN

The HR's Personal Representative on non-proliferation has stepped up cooperation with the UN DDA and in particular with Under Secretary General Tanaka and the Geneva Office of the DDA. She has also maintained contacts with Ambassador Burian, Chairman of the 1540 Committee. In this context, the idea has emerged of the co-sponsoring of regional seminars in support of UNSCR 1540 and full cooperation has been established with DDA for the implementation of the Council Joint Action in support of BTWC.

III. Assistance to third countries

- Russia: Physical protection of a nuclear site

In 2004 the Council adopted a Joint Action for the support of the physical protection of a nuclear research centre in the Russian Federation, the Boshvar Institute in Moscow (2004/796/CFSP). The German government, which under the Joint Action is in charge of its implementation, has now signed the agreement with Russian authorities, which allows to launch the implementation of the project. Once implemented, this project will result in the enhanced protection of an important Russian nuclear research site against possible theft of nuclear material and acts of nuclear terrorism.

- Russia: Chemical Weapons Destruction

Discussions continue in the Council bodies on a project proposal to support the destruction of Chemical Weapons in the Russian Federation with a view to its adoption by the Council in the form of a Council Joint Action. The proposal refers to a project in support of the Shchuch'ye Chemical Weapon Destruction Facility as part of the EU's commitments under the G8 Global Partnership, to be implemented by the UK through its bilateral programme with the Russian Federation. This project would complement and reinforce earlier projects funded by the EU in Shchuch'ye and relates to the construction and installation of the electrical power supply to the weapons destruction site (cost estimate ± € 3 million).

IV. Export Controls

- Reinforcing the efficiency of export controls in an enlarged Europe:

The Impact Assessment Study (IAS) on possible options for the review of the EU regime on export control of dual use items has been successfully carried out and its report, released in February 2006, is available on the Commission website. The Commission has presented to Member States and industry, in Spring 2006, the Commission services' comments on the findings of the IAS recommendations. It has collected comments from all stakeholders with a view to preparing, for the end of 2006, a Communication on the review of the EU regime for export controls of dual use items and a proposal of recast of EC Regulation 1334/2000. Close cooperation has taken place between the Peer Review team which carried out the Peer Reviews in Romania and Bulgaria and those two observers now to become Members of the EU by January 2007.

The pilot phase for the setting up of the EU database for denials has been successfully started. Updates of the pilot database are made in consultation with Member States.

- Export control training and assistance for states in need of technical knowledge:

The EU and Member States have held numerous seminars and meetings providing export control training and assistance for states in need of technical knowledge. Such states include the *Western Balkan countries, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania*. In addition, the cooperation and assistance programmes under the 2005 Pilot Project programme of the European Commission, implemented by BAFA (Germany's export control agency) with the assistance of national experts from Member States, are being carried forward in *China, the United Arab Emirates, Ukraine and Serbia and Montenegro*. Cooperation and assistance to Russia is also carried forward under the EU - Russia cooperation programme with the same mechanism as for the Pilot programme.

Following the agreement expressed by the Pakistani authorities on the occasion of a visit of the HR's PR on non-proliferation to Islamabad in May 2006, a workshop on the implementation of export controls was held in Islamabad on 12-13 December 2006, in conformity with the List of Priorities adopted by the Council in December 2005 and in the light of previous experience with the EU export control workshops in China (January 2005) and Ukraine (January 2006).

V. Non-proliferation in relations with third countries

- Cooperation with key partners

The EU has continued to work with the US for the implementation of the 2005 Joint EU-US programme of work for the Non-Proliferation of WMD, which was reaffirmed in the Joint Statement at the EU-US Vienna Summit on 21st of June. A second session of the EU-US Dialogue on Verification and Compliance has been held in Brussels on 29th September with the participation of AS DeSutter and representatives of twelve Member States. The HR's PR pursued contacts in particular through her visit to Washington on 11 October.

The EU is stepping up its dialogue on these issues also with Russia on the basis of the External Security Common Space adopted at the 2005 EU-Russia Summit. In addition to troika meetings, there are regular contacts between the Council Secretariat and the Russian mission in Brussels as well as counter parts in Moscow, in particular concerning the Iranian issue.

The Joint Statements on Non-Proliferation adopted in 2004 with Japan and China have also been further implemented through regular contacts during this semester, in particular through the continued information exchange between their respective missions in Brussels and the HR's PR on issues like Iran or DPRK.

The new EU strategic partnership with India constitutes the framework for the EU-India Security Dialogue which started with a meeting in New Delhi on 22 May 2006. The HR's PR used that opportunity for informal talks with FS Saran and AS Singh on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament issues.

- *WMD clauses in contractual relations and Neighborhood Action plans*

The EU has been continuing, according to its WMD Strategy, to mainstream non-proliferation of WMD into its contractual relationship with third states. Successful negotiations have been concluded so far concerning 87 States around the world. The HR's PR or her Office have been involved in the negotiations. In detail:

- a WMD clause is in force with Albania (where the SAA is in force since July 2006),
- WMD clauses have been inserted in agreements finalised with Tajikistan, Syria, the 78 ACP countries (where the cooperation or association agreement is not yet entered into force)
- a WMD clause has been finalised in an agreement with the GCC countries where other provisions are still under discussion. Negotiations of WMD clauses in the SAA with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia-Montenegro are also close to completion.

New negotiations on WMD clauses have been engaged with Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and will start soon with China, Brunei and Iraq on the basis of a mandate already adopted. Mandates for negotiation with Russia and Malaysia will be agreed soon.

A dialogue has been re-established with Pakistan during the visit of the PR in May in order to restart negotiations of a political agreement based on Art. 24 of TEU containing a WMD clause. The Council Working Parties have worked and agreed on a EU counterproposal to the amendments put forward by Pakistan.

Essential elements of this WMD clause have also been included in the relevant parts of the New Neighbourhood Action Plans. After the conclusion of Action Plans with Ukraine, Moldova, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, The Palestinian Authority, Israel and Egypt, negotiations have started now with Lebanon, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia; they are expected to be concluded soon.

Some third countries made counter-proposals which could alter the sense of the non-proliferation clause. The Council ensures that no substantial deviation from the standard clause is agreed.

VI. Regional and multilateral issues

- G 8

The G8 and more specifically the G8 Global partnership continue to play an important role in the field of WMD non-proliferation. The Personal Representative and Commission services have attended relevant meetings held in the second half of 2006 in Moscow under the Presidency of the Russian Federation. Non proliferation constitutes an important section of the final document of the ministerial meeting. It is recalled that at Kananaskis the Commission took the commitment to contribute 1 billion Euro to the G8 Global Partnership. Today, the Commission has spent over 400 Meuro - mainly on nuclear safety, reconversion of former weapon scientists, nuclear submarine dismantlement, destruction of chemical weapons and disposition of fissile material - and a further 400 Meuro are already committed. Since Kananaskis, the Council has continued to finance activities in Russia through Council Joint Actions (i.e. Council Decision 2003/874/CFSP and Council Joint Action 2004/796/CFSP).

- Barcelona Process

The HR's PR has kept in contact with Euromed partners. The principle of an ad hoc meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament had already been confirmed by Euromed Ministers. Progress had been achieved on the substance of the Terms of Reference. Consultations will be pursued in order to confirm agreement officially on the Terms of Reference and agree on a date for the ad hoc meeting.

- Iran

Since Iran breached its commitments under the Paris Agreement, the HR and his team have continued together with France, Germany and United Kingdom to deploy diplomatic efforts on the Iranian nuclear issue. The United States, Russia and China supported collectively with the Europeans a revised offer in June to Iran based on proposed cooperation in economic, nuclear and political areas. They agreed to ask the HR to present this offer in Tehran in June on their behalf. Negotiations of this offer, which implies the participation of the US at the negotiating table, could start, provided Iran would suspend all enrichment-related activities. The group of six countries, with the support of the HR, agreed at the ministerial meeting in Vienna on 1st June in 2006 on the principle of taking further steps at the UNSC if Iran rejects the offer and does not suspend all enrichment activities. Since Iran did not respond to this offer in good time, the group of six countries had no alternative but to start a process which led ultimately to the adoption of UNSCR 1696. During the month of September, the HR pursued talks with Dr Larijani in order explore ways to start negotiations. But Iranians did finally not give the positive signal needed with regard to the suspension of enrichment-related activities. The HR briefed the Six Foreign Ministers before confirming to Iran that conditions for negotiations were not met. The GAERC conclusions of 17th October recalled those of 17 July and stated that the failure by Iran to comply with the Security Council requirements, would lead the EU to work for the adoption of measures under article 41 of the UN Charter in the UNSC. Iran's continuation of enrichment related activities had left the EU no choice but to support consultations on such measures. The Council noted also that the door to negotiations nevertheless remained open and urged Iran to take the positive path on offer.

These diplomatic efforts, and in particular the specific role played by the HR, were supported by all EU Member States. The Political and Security Committee was briefed regularly on developments e.g. in the context of the IAEA and the UNSC and GAERC conclusions have been adopted following joint assessments by the EU Ministers of the situation.

- DPRK

The EU had welcomed in September 2005 the Beijing Joint Statement and recalled its support to the Six-Party talks and its readiness to contribute to its success. The EU reacted firmly after the launching of missiles by the DPRK in July and supported the adoption of UNSCR 1695. It had already engaged in discussions about the way to implement UNSCR 1695 when DPRK announced its intention to conduct a nuclear test. The EU reacted immediately after the announcement by the DPRK of its intention to carry out a nuclear test by sending clear warnings to Pyongyang. The same was done by EU's major partners.

Following the nuclear test proclaimed by DPRK, the GAERC adopted on 17 October conclusions by which it strongly condemned the test of 9th October 2006 which poses a danger to regional stability and represents a clear threat to international peace and security. The Council stated that the EU would fully implement the provisions of all relevant UNSC Resolutions and notably of Resolution 1718 adopted on 14 October 2006 and of Resolution 1695 adopted on 15 July 2006 and that the Council shall immediately take the necessary steps to that end.

The Council strongly urged the DPRK to return immediately to the Six-Party talks, to work towards expeditious implementation of the Joint Statement of September 2005, in particular to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, and to comply with its obligations under the NPT, which include submitting all its nuclear activities to IAEA verification. The EU further called on the DPRK to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, to refrain from conducting any further nuclear test or missile launch, and to re-establish its commitments to a moratorium on missile launching.

A Common Position and a Council Regulation in order to implement UNSCR 1718 and 1695 are under preparation.

Concerning KEDO, after several years of project suspension, the KEDO board, in view of the DPRK's continued non compliance with its international non proliferation obligations, decided in May 2006 to terminate KEDO and the winding up is due to be completed in March 2007.

VII. WMD Monitoring Centre

A draft Concept Paper on a WMD Monitoring Centre, based on the guidelines of the European Council (see doc. 15708/06, Chapter III, point D2) was prepared by the HR's Personal Representative on non-proliferation in full association with the Commission. Following agreement reached in PSC on 21 November 2006, the paper has been endorsed by the Council on 11 December 2006. On the basis of this concept, a cooperative working method involving Council Secretariat, Commission and Member States will now be developed in order to ensure a more coherent implementation of the EU WMD Strategy.
